

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MEXICO 20013 020012Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----025232 020015Z /61

O 020006Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6687

S E C R E T MEXICO 20013

NODIS

DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E. O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PBOR, BH, MX

SUBJECT: BELIZE

1. DURING MY DEC 1 CONVERSATION WITH ROEL, HIS BASIC POSITION ON BELIZE WAS THAT IF TERRITORIAL CESSION SETTLEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE TO PRICE, IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM. DURING PRICE'S VISIT HERE, HE HAD NOT PUSHED HIM ONE WAY OR THE OTHER BUT HAD ONLY ASKED FOR HIS POINT OF VIEW. AT THAT TIME PRICE HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD RATHER SEE BELIZE STAY UNDER BRITISH RULE THAN AGREE TO CESSION OF ANY BELIZEAN TERRITORY. IF PRICE CHANGES HIS VIEW, THEN, ROEL SAID, WHATEVER PRICE FINDS ACCEPTABLE WILL BE AGREEABLE TO MEXICO. (ROEL DID NOT SAY SPECIFICALLY WHAT HAD BEEN OUTCOME OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH LOPEZ PORTILLO EVENING OF NOVEMBER 28, ON HIS RETURN FROM DISCUSSION WITH ROWLANDS IN NEW YORK.)

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY STATEMENT THAT TORRIJOS WAS BEING HELPFUL IN TRYING TO PERSUADE PRICE TO ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT INVOLVING TERRITORIAL CESSION, ROEL SAID THAT TORRIJOS' HELP WAS NATURAL, SINCE HE WANTED RATIFICATION OF THE CANAL TREATIES AND THE ADDITIONAL REVENUE THAT WOULD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MEXICO 20013 020012Z

COME TO PANAMA UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

3. REGARDING THE TORRIJOS-SPONSORED MEETING IN KINGSTON DECEMBER 9, REPORTED IN PANAMA 8513, ROEL SAID HE HAD BEEN TELEPHONED ABOUT MEXICAN PARTICIPATION. HIS ATTITUDE WAS NEGATIVE. HE SAID THAT THE MINI-CHIEF OF STATE MEETING IN BOGOTA HAD BEEN A FAILURE, AND ASKED WHAT WAS

THE SENSE OF ANOTHER MEETING OF THAT TYPE ON BELIZE?
WHAT WAS THERE TO DISCUSS, HE ASKED. HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD NOT ATTEND THE MEETING, BUT DID NOT SAY WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD SEND A REPRESENTATIVE.

4. ROEL SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THAT ROWLANDS WOULD VISIT MEXICO CITY IN MID-DECEMBER. HE INDICATED THAT MEXICO WOULD KEEP ITS POSITION ON BELIZE FLEXIBLE UNTIL AFTER THIS MEETING.

5. ROEL WONDERED OUT LOUD WHY THE USG WAS SO ANXIOUS, AS HE PUT IT, TO PULL THE BRITISH CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE ON THE BELIZE ISSUE. AFTER ALL, HE COMMENTED, THE US WAS A MAJOR WORLD POWER AND BRITISH INFLUENCE WAS WANING. WHY WAS THE US SO ANXIOUS TO ASSIST THE BRITISH ON BELIZE? I EXPLAINED THAT WE SAW BELIZE AS A FESTERING HEMISPHERIC PROBLEM THAT COULD ERUPT AND SPREAD, AND WE WERE ANXIOUS TO SEE IT SOLVED PEACEFULLY BEFORE IT HAD A CHANCE TO WORSEN TO THE DETRIMENT OF ALL, INCLUDING THE US.

6. ROEL INDICATED THAT, IN GENERAL, HE STILL WANTS MEXICO TO HAVE A PLACE AT THE BARGAINING TABLE WHEN A BELIZE SETTLEMENT IS DECIDED. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER IT WAS SECURE ACCESS TO CHETUMAL THAT TROUBLED MEXICO, HE INDICATED THAT IT WAS PART OF MEXICO'S CONCERN.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MEXICO 20013 020012Z

7. REGARDING HIS NOVEMBER 25 TELEPHONE CALL TO SECRETARY VANCE, ROEL SAID THAT AFTER HIS LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH ROWLANDS, HE HAD NOT FELT THERE WAS ENOUGH NEW TO MERIT HIS ASKING TO SEE THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY, SO HE HAD TELEPHONED INSTEAD OF COMING TO WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT HE WAS STILL WORKING ON A PROPOSAL FOR THE SECRETARY ON UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS, BUT IT WAS NOT YET READY FOR PRESENTATION. LUCEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO20013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840081-2285
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712100/aaaadhbm.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6cee20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 104761
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE
TAGS: PBOR, BH, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6cee20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009